

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

**Pishan (Pi-shan) Impact Area
PRC (TSR)**

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PISHAN (PI-SHAN) IMPACT AREA, PRC (TSR)

1. [REDACTED] Pishan (Pi-shan) Impact Area [REDACTED] Figure 1) is in the extreme western part of the People's Republic of China (PRC), approximately 100 nautical miles (nm) west-northwest of Hotan (Ho-tien) on the southwestern edge of the Tarim Basin. Pishan is the westernmost impact area in the PRC and provides the longest (approximately 2,238 nm) in-country missile flight test range. The sophistication of the instrumentation at Pishan is equal to that at the Kuruktag (Ku-lu-ko-shan Mountains) Impact Area [REDACTED], the most technologically advanced impact area in the PRC. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Of the four reported missile flight tests, only one missile reentry vehicle impact crater has been identified to date. Analysis to identify additional instrumentation sites and impact craters is continuing.

2. (TSR) Two instrumentation sites and long-distance radio communications transmitting and receiving facilities have been identified at the impact area (Figure 1). One instrumentation site is approximately 2 nm north and the other is approximately 2 nm south of the main road connecting Hotan and Yecheng (Yeh-cheng). Vehicle tracks extend cross country from the instrumentation sites to this main road. Road transportation between the two sites is apparently via the main road. The nearest airfield, Hotan Airfield (BE [REDACTED]) is at the town of Hotan. CRATE, COACH, and CURL aircraft are periodically observed at the airfield, but their association with missile test activity at Pishan has not been confirmed.

3. (TSR) Pishan Instrumentation Site (BE [REDACTED] Figure 2) is probably the control site for the impact area. The instrumentation site consists of one tower-mounted mesh parabolic dish

and two ground-mounted optical tracking domes aligned along a [REDACTED] azimuth. Each optical tracker is mounted on a concrete pad, and an associated building/shed is adjacent to the dome. At least ten other large buildings/sheds are scattered behind the line of tracking domes and contain additional unidentified instrumentation. During peaks of activity, numerous small antennas have been observed deployed atop and between these large buildings/sheds. The buildings/sheds apparently consist of upright supports with canvas or corrugated roofs that would provide only minimal shelter for the mobile instrumentation. Personnel housing is provided by at least 60 tents scattered throughout the area. Two buried cables have been identified extending from the area of the main instrumentation site. One cable extends north toward the main road and the second extends south. Vehicle tracks prevented identification of the specific buildings associated with the buried cables within the instrumentation site.

4. (TSR) Pishan Instrumentation Site 2 (BE [REDACTED] Figure 3) consists of a single ground-mounted optical tracking dome with an adjacent building/shed, two probable instrumentation buildings/sheds, two bunkers, and four tents. A buried cable extends from the area of the instrumentation site toward the main road. Vehicle track activity in the immediate area of the site precluded identification of the specific building associated with the buried cable.

5. (TSR) Long-distance communication for the impact area is provided by a rhombic antenna receiving station (Figure 2) adjacent to the Pishan Instrumentation Site; one of the large buildings/sheds at the site shelters at least two communication van trucks. The three rhombic receiving antennas are oriented on azimuths of [REDACTED] 90 degrees.

6. (TSR) The most likely transmitting site for these receiving antennas is the Weinan (Weinan) Probable SSM/Space Tracking Facility (BE

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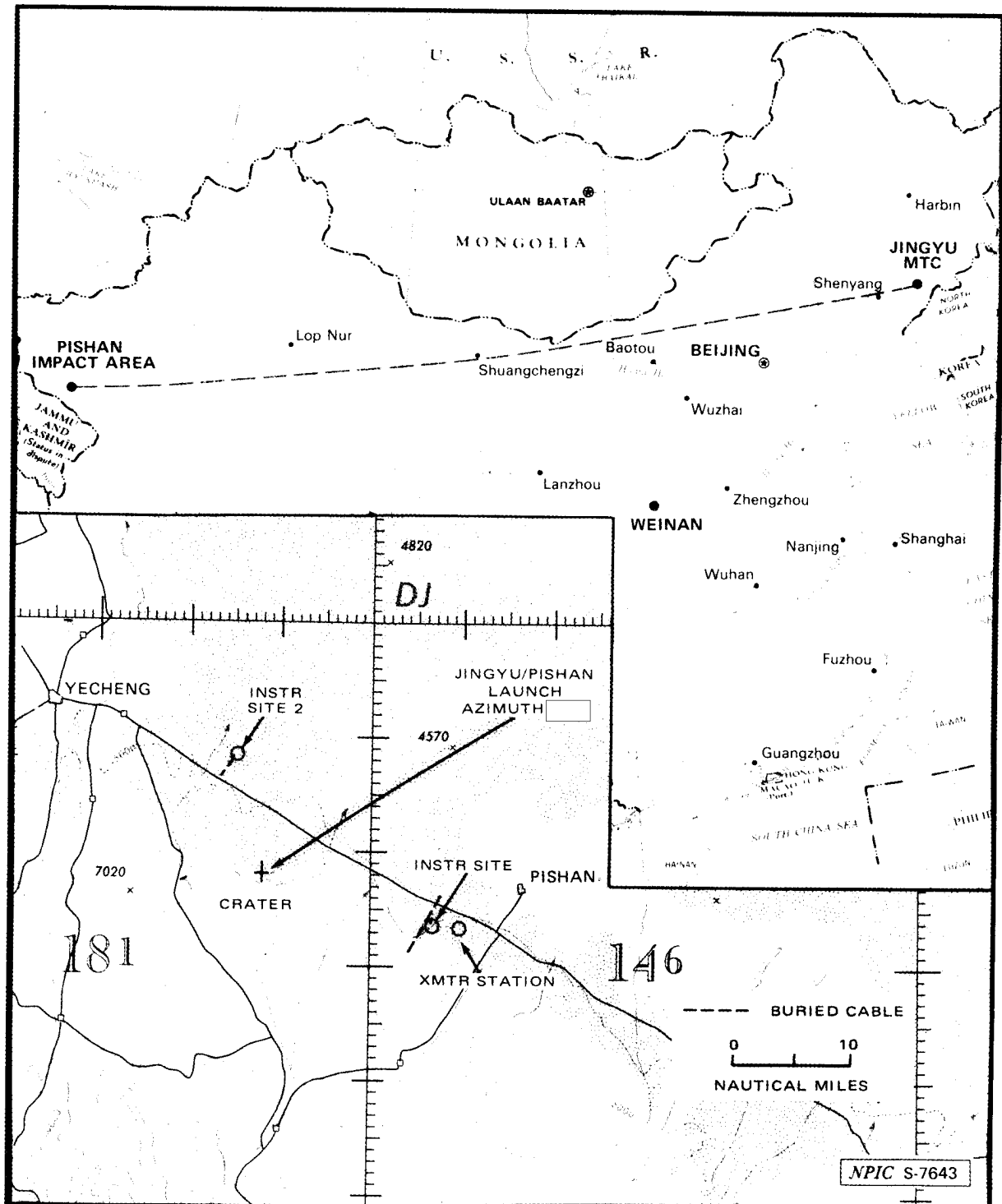


FIGURE 1. LOCATION AND LAYOUT OF PISHAN IMPACT AREA, PRC

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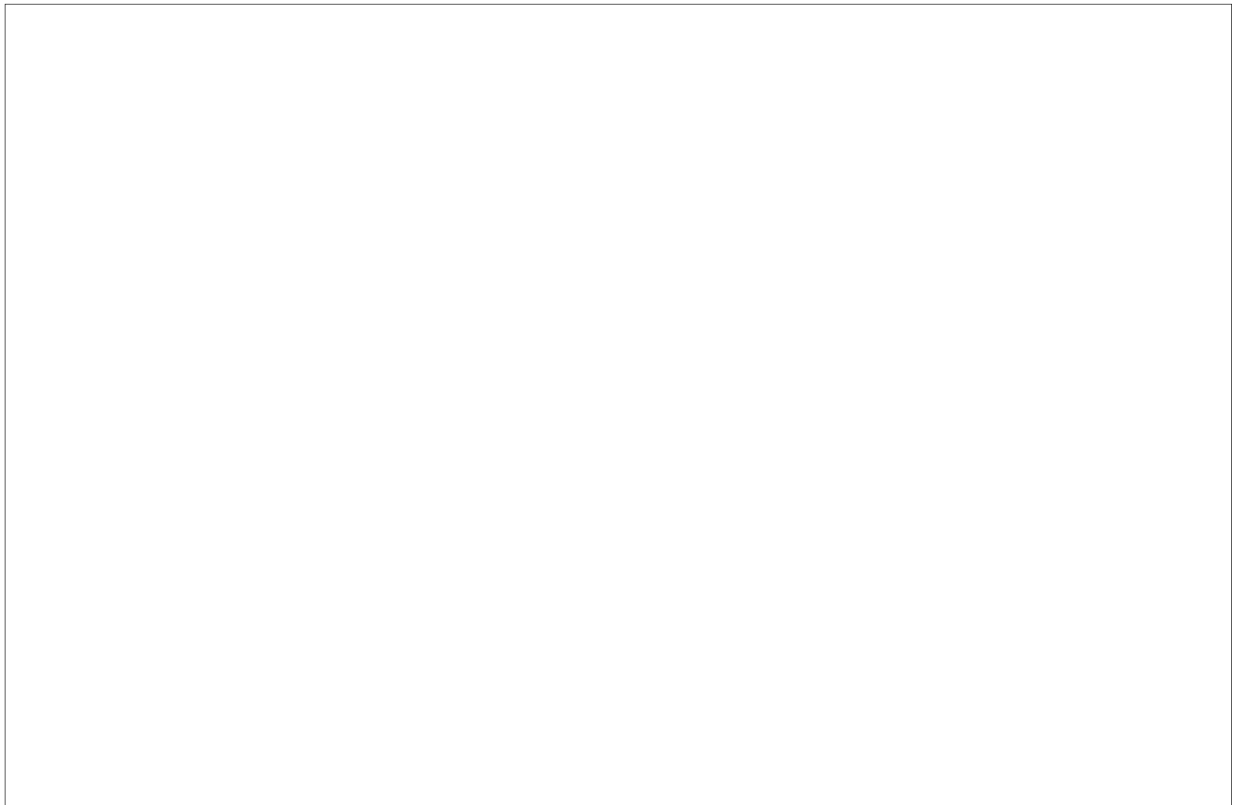
[REDACTED] Transmitting/receiving azimuths between Pishan and Weinan are [REDACTED]. Other likely correspondents for the Pishan Impact Area are the Jingyu Missile Test Complex, with azimuths of [REDACTED] the city of Beijing (Peking), with azimuths of [REDACTED] and the Shuangchengzi (Shuang-cheng-tzu) Missile Test Range Complex SSM [REDACTED], with azimuths of [REDACTED]. Communications with Weinan would allow portions of the space-tracking network to be used also for tracking reentry vehicles. Sule (Su-lo) SSM/Space Tracking Facility ([REDACTED]) is 142 nm to the northwest and may also be connected by buried cables to the Pishan Impact Area.

7. (TSR) The Pishan Radio Communications Transmitter Station ([REDACTED] Figure 4) consists of a single rhombic antenna, oriented on a transmitting azimuth of 90 degrees; a control building; and a support building. This

transmitting site is oriented on an azimuth similar to that of the receiving station antennas and probably also communicates with the Weinan Probable SSM/Space Tracking Facility.

8. (TSR) Possible point-to-point very-high-frequency (VHF) communications antennas (Figures 2 and 3) at both instrumentation sites appear to be MERCURY GRASS-type antennas. At Pishan Instrumentation Site, two pairs of these antennas are deployed atop tall masts, near the four corners of one of the large buildings/sheds. The presence of these antennas suggests the existence of other instrumentation sites. Pishan Instrumentation Site 2 contains a single MERCURY GRASS-type mast, deployed adjacent to the largest bunker.

9. (TSR) Mensuration-derived coordinates for the only impact crater identified to date (Figure 5) are 37-37-45N 077-47-30E. The crater, [REDACTED] meters in diameter by [REDACTED] deep, is similar in



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size to craters identified previously at other impact areas. The crater is approximately midway between the two instrumentation sites and approximately 5 nm south of the main road. Haze, affecting the interpretability of the imagery, precluded a determination of whether other impact craters were in the immediate vicinity. Analysis to identify any other craters within the impact area is continuing.

10. (TSR) Monitoring of the instrumentation sites to date has revealed only the most gen-

eral indicators of launch-related activity. Pishan Instrumentation Site, the only site with a history of photographic coverage, [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired through [REDACTED] was used in the preparation of this report.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet DD0335-18HL, 1st ed, Apr 76, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET) [REDACTED]

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DOCUMENTS

1. DEFSMAC. 041718Z Aug 78, *CSS-3 ICBM Launched from Chingyu to Pishan, 30 July 1978* (TOP SECRET)

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DEFSMAC. 160025Z Sep 78, *CSS-3 Launched from Chingyu, 15 September* (SECRET)

DoD. Cable 261130Z Dec 78 (SECRET)

DEFSMAC. 042337Z Jan 79, *CSS-3 ICBM Launched from Chingyu, 22 December 1978 (S)* (TOP SECRET)

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REQUIREMENT

Project 130129NS

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, [REDACTED]

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